

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of isolating at least one plasmid from other component(s) of a liquid that includes RNA, comprising:

- (a) providing a separation matrix comprised of one or more porous carriers, which carrier(s) present anion exchange groups on external surfaces as well as pore surfaces and a pore size distribution that does not allow access of plasmids to pore surfaces;
- (b) contacting said matrix with the liquid to adsorb the plasmid(s) to ligands present on the external surfaces of the separation matrix and to adsorb the RNA to ligands present on the pore surfaces; and
- (c) contacting an eluent with the separation matrix to release the plasmid(s) and recovering plasmid(s) from a fraction of said eluent.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of isolating at least one plasmid from other component(s) of a liquid that includes RNA, comprising:

- (a) providing a separation matrix comprised of one or more porous carriers, which carrier(s) present anion exchange groups on external surfaces as well as pore

surfaces and said pores have a DNA exclusion limit of at least about 270 base pairs;

- (b) contacting said matrix with the liquid to adsorb the plasmid(s) to ligands present on the external surfaces of the separation matrix and to adsorb the RNA to ligands present on the pore surfaces; and
- (c) contacting an eluent with the separation matrix to release the plasmid(s) and recovering plasmid(s) from a fraction of said eluent.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the DNA exclusion limit of the separation matrix is at least about 1,000 base pairs.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the separation matrix is in the form of essentially spherical particles having an average diameter of 30-50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the plasmids are of a size that exceeds about 3,000 base pairs.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, which is a large scale process wherein at least about 1 grams of plasmid is recovered.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the plasmids recovered in step (c) are essentially free from RNA.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

- (d)     subjecting the plasmid-containing eluate obtained from step (c) to hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC).

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said anion-exchange groups are selected from the group consisting of quaternary amine (Q) groups and diethylamine groups.

Claims 11-22 (cancelled)